

STAFFORD COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD
Agenda Consideration

TOPIC: Stadium Field Upgrade: NSHS

ITEM NO.: 13E

PREPARED BY: Quintin Sullivan
Project Manager/
Clerk of the Works

MEETING: December 13, 2005
ACTION DATE: December 13, 2005

Scott Horan,
Executive Director
Planning & Construction

Andre' A. Nougaret,
Assistant Superintendent
for Support Services

ACTION REQUESTED BY THE SUPERINTENDENT: That the School Board approve the upgrade of the stadium field at North Stafford High School and fund the project using the Construction Contingency Reserve Account.

KEY POINTS:

1. The stadium field (football/soccer/track) at North Stafford High School is in extremely poor condition. The field requires upgrades to correct safety concerns with drainage system, re-grading of field slopes, replacement of turf, repair of irrigation system, replacement of goal post and re-stripping of the track.
2. The stadium field has the original 25-year old field drainage system including ten (10) concrete inlet boxes with steel grates. These inlet boxes and grates are located (within feet) between the playing surface (field) and the track and present a major safety issue with the high potential for student athletes to be injured during scholastic sporting events and during school PE classes. To complicate issues, major erosion is occurring at or near several of the concrete inlet boxes exacerbating the safety condition and creating a recurring maintenance issue. Repairs to these erosion issues have increased in frequency and scope over the last 18 months. (See attached letter from Mr. Nichols, Principal, NSHS)
3. In April 2005 staff, working with NSHS, contracted for a general engineering assessment. Staff contracted with PHR&A through one of our open-ended civil engineering professional services contracts. In May 2005, PHR&A provided their assessment and recommended corrective action. Recommendations included immediate fixes to the erosion problems and a more comprehensive upgrade to address long-term use and safety issues. PHR&A recommended SCPS replace the existing NSHS football/soccer field drainage system with an underground drainage system (similar to MVHS and CFHS). PHR&A also recommended that in conjunction with the drainage system replacement, SCPS initiate any other field improvements scheduled for the next 2-3 years.
4. Staff reviewed the report, consulted with NSHS staff, examined a list of other existing

field deficiencies, determined an estimated project performance period and forecasted the least disruptive time of year to initiate this project and came up with the following recommendations:

- a. Short-term fixes will be done with in-house maintenance, but will not be as extensive as identified in the PHR&A report unless, major repairs are delayed
- b. Drainage system should be replaced with underground system
- c. Re-grading of field should be done at the same time
- d. New turf (Bermuda) should be installed
- e. Irrigation system should be upgraded
- f. Existing track should be repainted (Possibly re-surfaced)
- g. New goal post installed (existing goal posts do not comply with VHSL)
- h. Project should be awarded in January 2006 and work started in March 2006
- i. Field needs to be ready for Bermuda turf in early June 2006
- j. All NSHS spring sports that utilize this playing surface will need alternative playing/practicing locations

5. In August 2005, staff initiated a design with PHR&A to include all of the items listed in item 4. The design will be ready to advertise in early December 2005.

6. Due to the safety concerns and condition of the field, track, and irrigation systems, staff recommends this project is initiated now and not next year. NSHS is prepared and committed to work with the other high schools and Stafford County Parks and Recreation to secure practice space for their spring sports and address their competition schedule.

7. Funding for the construction effort is estimated at \$350K and is **not identified** in the current FY06 – 11 Capital Improvement Program (CIP).

8. At the November 15, 2005 School Board meeting information was requested on installing Field Turf (artificial) vice Bermuda sprigs. The following is information obtained in support of that request:

- a. Bermuda sprig installation cost for an area similar in size to a football field is roughly \$50 - \$80K with field rough and laser grading
- b. Field Turf cost for an area similar in size to a football field is roughly \$650 - \$700K with field rough and laser grading
- c. Field Turf is low maintenance compared to grass, however some issues do exist with the repair of “turf” when and if damaged
- d. There are limited number of “certified” installers for Field Turf
- e. Sub-base installation problems have surfaced at existing fields
- f. No irrigation systems required for Field Turf vice grass
- g. Virtually unlimited playing time for Field Turf vice grass
- h. Field Turf considered for MVHS but due to high initial cost, was not pursued.

9. If approved by the School Board, staff plans to issue an RFP for the upgrades once the design is completed. We estimate this to be in January 2006 with construction starting in March 2006 and being completed in the summer of 2006. The field will be ready to host fall sports.

SCHOOL BOARD GOAL: #5 – Provide facilities that promote student learning and and community support.

#7 – Provide school environments where teachers are

safe to teach and students are safe to learn

FUNDING SOURCE: Construction Reserve Contingency Account

AUTHORIZATION REFERENCE: Stafford County School Board Policy 4-12
Stafford County School Board Policy 4-29